

message about lynching, which you have read,  
I speak of  
the grave and evil fact that the negroes too  
often band  
together to shelter their own criminals, which  
action had  
an undoubted effect in helping to precipitate  
the hideous  
Atlanta race riots. I condemn such attitude  
strongly, for  
I feel that it is fraught with the gravest  
danger to both  
races. Here, where I have power to deal with  
it, I find this  
identical attitude displayed among the negro  
troops. I  
should be recreant to my duty if I failed by  
deeds as well  
as words to emphasize with the utmost  
severity my disap-  
proval of it."

To Dr. B. Lawton Wiggins, Vice Chancellor,  
University  
of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee:

" When I took the stand I did on these negro  
troops I of  
course realized that trouble would come of it  
politically  
because of the attitude certain to be taken, I  
regret to say,  
by unwise sentimentalists and self-seeking  
demagogues in  
our Northern States, especially in those  
where the negro  
vote is an important factor. But it was just  
one of those  
vital matters where I did not feel that I had  
any right to  
consider questions of political expediency, and  
still less of  
personal expediency. Do not misunderstand  
me. I believe  
in being thoroughly practical in politics, and in  
paying all  
proper heed to political considerations. As  
things actually  
are in this world, I do not feel that a man can  
accomplish  
much for good in public life unless he does so.  
But I be-  
lieve still more strongly that when we come to

root questions affecting the welfare of the entire nation,  
it is out of the question for an honorable man, whether in  
public or private life, to consider political expediency at  
all. In this instance the question was really one of those  
root questions. If the troops had been white troops,  
nothing would have been said about my action. It is a curious  
thing that these same politicians and sentimentalists  
who denounce me because I refuse to do injustice in favor of  
the colored troops, have always opposed me when I have  
endeavored